

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 6-15, 19, 21-35, 39-55, 57-59 and 61-65 are pending in this application.

Claims 4, 5, 16-18, 20, 36-38, 56 and 60 have been canceled without prejudice.

Regarding the Drawings

Figure 3 was objected to because the designation "Prior Art" should be in the legend of Figure 3. Applicant appreciates the Examiners careful review of this application and is providing a replacement sheet as per 37 CFR § 1.121(d). Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Regarding the Specification

Applicant has amended paragraphs 20-21 of the originally filed specification by removing the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Regarding the § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-65 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) for being anticipated by Wiltshire et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,409,602).

Applicant respectfully points out that col. 2, lines 45-51 of Wiltshire states "since the gaming programs in the associated gaming display generation programs are executed entirely on the server/host computer, with only input wagering and output screen display related operations being executed on the client/terminal computers, the cost of the hardware and software required for each client/terminal computer is greatly reduced." Furthermore, at col. 7, lines 39-43, the cited reference states that "the command is thus received by server/host

interface program 114, that, in turn passes the command back to the game program 112. In stage, 270, game program 112 processes the input command and updates the state of the game accordingly.” Applicant notes that game program 112 is executed on the server host computer 110. (See col. 7, lines 7-9.)

Applicant respectfully submits that Wiltshire is limited to teaching a server/host gaming program that does not download the gaming program nor the audiovisual content of the game to a gaming station.

Claim 1, as amended, recites, among other things, that the step of conducting the wagering game includes “executing the audiovisual content at the gaming machine.” As such, Applicant respectfully points out that since Wiltshire does not anticipate executing the audiovisual content of the game at the gaming machine that Wiltshire does not anticipate amended claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn and submits that claim 1 is ready for allowance.

Claims 2, 6, 8 and 9 are each dependent upon independent claim 1 and are therefore not anticipated for at least the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 1.

With respect to claim 7, this claim has been amended to further broaden the scope of this claim based on the cited art presently uncovered. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 is not anticipated by Wiltshire for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1 and because claim 7 further recites that the wagering game includes executing “a substantial portion of the game software at the gaming machine” which is also not taught or anticipated by Wiltshire. Applicant respectfully requests that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn and submits that claim 7 is ready for allowance.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite, among other things, a step of “downloading the audiovisual content from the central server system to the gaming machine.” Applicant

respectfully submits that Wiltshire does not teach or anticipate the downloading of the audiovisual content to the gaming machine, but in fact, teaches away from such a download. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10, as amended, is not anticipated by Wiltshire and respectfully requests that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 11-14 are each, either directly or indirectly, dependent upon claim 10 and are therefore not anticipated for at least the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 10. Applicant submits that these claims are also ready for allowance.

Claim 15 is indirectly dependent upon claim 10 and is therefore not anticipated for at least the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 10. Furthermore, claim 15 recites that the method further includes “enabling the computing device to be linked to the central server system by the Internet using a security key.” Applicant submits that Wiltshire is quiet with respect to the use of a security key and using such a key for linking a computing device to the central server. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 15 is not anticipated by Wiltshire and respectfully requests that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 19 is dependent upon claim 10 and is not anticipated for at least the same reasons stated with respect to claim 10. Furthermore, claim 19 recites that the step of conducting one of the wagering games via the player operated gaming machines includes “executing the audiovisual content and the game software at the gaming machine.” Applicant submits that Wiltshire teaches away from executing the game software at the gaming machine. As such, Applicant points out that Wiltshire does not anticipate claim 19 and respectfully submits that claim 19 is ready for allowance.

With respect to claim 21, this claim is also dependent upon claim 10 and is therefore not anticipated for the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 10. Furthermore, claim 21 also includes the step of “downloading the audiovisual content from the central

server to the computing device” which is not taught or anticipated by Wiltshire because Wiltshire does not allow downloading of the audio visual game content. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is also ready for allowance.

Claims 22 and 23 are dependent upon claim 10 and are therefore not anticipated for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 10. Applicant respectfully requests that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn and submits that claims 22 and 23 are ready for allowance.

Claims 25-30 are either directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 10 and are therefore not anticipated for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 10. Furthermore, claims 24-30 each refer to the wagering games including a basic version and/or an enhanced version of the wagering game. Applicant respectfully submits that Wiltshire is quiet with respect to providing two different versions of a similar game. Furthermore, Applicant submits that Wiltshire teaches away and does not anticipate the downloading of either a basic version or an enhanced version of a game to a gaming or computing device. As such, Applicant respectfully points out that Wiltshire does not anticipate claims 24-30 and respectfully requests that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn. Applicant further submits that these claims 24-30 are ready for allowance.

Independent claim 31 claims a web-based system for integrating casino gambling with non-casino interactive gaming. Claim 31 further recites that there are gaming machines being used to conduct one of the wagering games and that there are computing devices also being used to conduct the same or other ones of the wagering games. Applicant further points out that claim 31 recites that “the plurality of wagering games each include audiovisual content and game software for generating a random event; and wherein the central server system executes the game software and the gaming machines receive the audiovisual content

from the central server system and store the audiovisual content locally.” As discussed above, Wiltshire does not anticipate storing the audiovisual content locally on either a gaming machine or a computing device. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn and submits that claim 31 is ready for allowance because it requires, among other things, that the gaming machines receive the audiovisual content from the central server system and stores the audiovisual content locally. Applicant submits that claim 31 is ready for allowance.

Claims 32, 33, 34, 40, 42 and 43 are each either directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 31 and are therefore are not anticipated for at least the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 31. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are ready for allowance and requests that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 35 is indirectly dependent upon claim 31 and is therefore not anticipated for at least the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 31. Furthermore, claim 35 recites that the “computing device includes a security key enabling the computing device to be linked to the central server system by the Internet.” Applicant respectfully submits that Wiltshire is quiet with respect to this element and therefore does not anticipate the use of a security key as claimed. Applicant respectfully requests that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn and submits that claim 35 is ready for allowance.

Claim 39 is dependent upon claim 31 and is therefore not anticipated for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 31.

Furthermore, claim 31 recites that at least one of the gaming machines receives both the audiovisual content and the game software from the central server system” and stores the audiovisual content and game software locally. Applicant respectfully points out that Wiltshire does not teach or anticipate saving the gaming software locally and therefore

submits that claim 39 is not anticipated. Applicant respectfully requests that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 41 is dependent upon claim 31 and is therefore not anticipated for at least the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 31. Furthermore, claim 41 recites that the computing devices receive the audiovisual content from the central server system and “stores the audiovisual content locally.” Applicant respectfully submits that Wiltshire does not teach or anticipate saving the gaming display generation programs locally on a computer device. In fact, as stated above, Wiltshire teaches that the gaming display generation programs are executed entirely on the server/host computer. (Wiltshire, col. 2, lines 45-51.) As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 41 is not anticipated and respectfully requests that this § 102 rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 44-51 are either directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 31 and are therefore not anticipated for at least the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 31. Furthermore, these claims recite that there are two version of a wagering game which includes a “basic version” and/or an “enhanced version.” Applicant respectfully submits that Wiltshire does not teach, allude to or render obvious the use of a basic and an enhanced version of a game nor does it teach downloading such version to either a gaming machine or computing device. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are not anticipated by Wiltshire and respectfully requests that this § 102 rejection be withdrawn.

Independent claim 52, claims a casino-based gaming machine located in a land based casino, comprising, among other things, processing circuitry that receives audiovisual content from the central server system and stores the audiovisual content locally on the gaming machine. As discussed previously, Wiltshire teaches executing the gaming programs and gaming display generation programs entirely on the host server and not downloading them to

a gaming machine. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Wiltshire does not anticipate claim 52 and respectfully requests that this § 102 rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 53-55, 57 and 58 are each either directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 52 and are therefore not anticipated for at least the same reasons as stated above with respect to claim 52. Applicant respectfully requests that this § 102 rejection be withdrawn and submits that these claims are ready for allowance.

Independent claim 59 recites placing non-currency enabled gaming machines as part of a row with currency enabled gaming machines. Applicant submits that the combination of currency and non-currency enabled gaming machines placed in a row as discussed in claim 59 is not anticipated by Wiltshire. Wiltshire is in fact quiet with respect to rows of gaming machines on a casino floor.. Applicant respectfully submits that Wiltshire therefore does not teach or anticipate claim 59 and requests that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 60 and 61 are dependent upon claim 59 and are therefore not anticipated for at least the same reason as stated above with respect to claim 59. Furthermore, claims 60 and 61 further recite a general organization of gaming machines on a casino floor. As such, Applicant again points out that Wiltshire does not anticipate a row or order in which to set up gaming machines on a casino floor and therefore submits that Wiltshire does not teach or anticipate claims 60 or 61. Applicant respectfully requests that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn and submits that claims 60 and 61 are each ready for allowance.

Claims 62, 63, 64 and 65 are each dependent upon prior discussed independent claims (claims 1, 10, 31 and 52, respectively) and are therefore not anticipated for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to those claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn and submits that these claims are also ready for allowance.

Should the Examiner have any further questions or comments facilitating allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative indicated below to further prosecution of this application to allowance and issuance.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully requested.

Dated: Nov 24, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachments

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to FIGURE 3.

Attachment: Replacement sheet

Annotated sheet showing changes



CASINO FLOOR LAYOUT

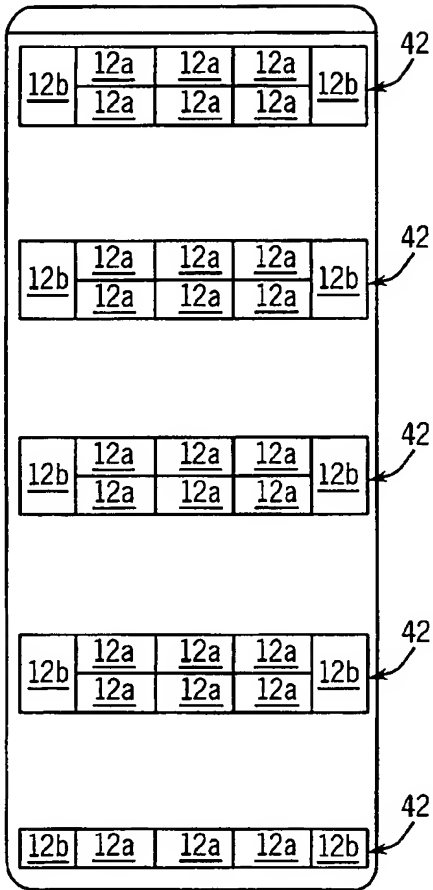


FIG. 2

TRADITIONAL CASINO FLOOR LAYOUT

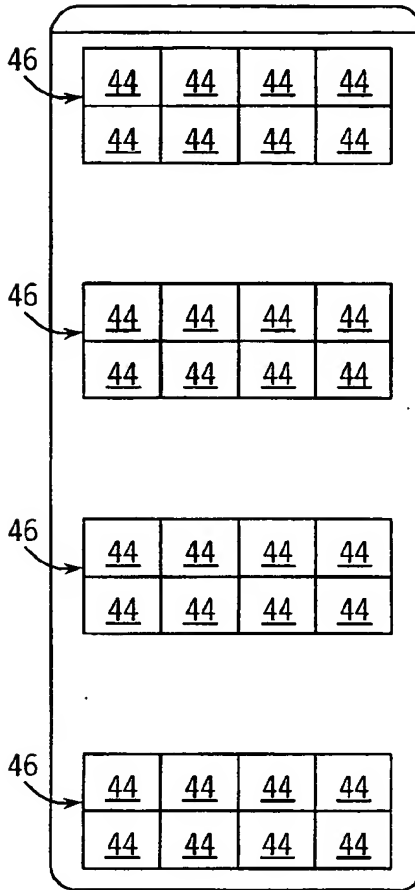


FIG. 3

(PRIOR ART)